Tehran Meet on Afghanistan

*153. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether India participated in the Tehran meet held towards the end of October, 1996 for the cessation of violence and armed hostilities in Afghanistan;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the role played by India at the meet; and

(c) the achievements of peace meeting?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The meeting was held in Tehran on 29-30 October, 1996. The conference was attended by India, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Kyrghystan, Kazakhstan, China, Turkey and host Iran as well as the representatives of the UN Secretary-General and the Secretary General of the OIC. The Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe and the European Union were observers to the conference.

The Conference Declaration emphasised the crucial necessity of the maintenance of the unity, independence, territorial integrity and sovereignty of Afghanistan and called for the cessation of foreign interference in Afghan affairs. The conference also called for all Afghan parties to work for a peaceful solution and the establishment of a broad-based Government. India made an active and important contribution to the consensus which emerged at the conference.

The conference was a significant regional effort to address the Afghan situation.

Permanent Membership of UN Security Council

*154. SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA :
SHRI KACHARU BHAU RAUT :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the progress made so far, in respect of India becoming a permanent member of the UN Security Council;

(b) whether Poland has given a fairly categorical endorsement to India in its bid to gain permanent Membership of the United Nations Security Council;

(c) if so, whether the Goveinment have made any special efforts to gain support of other member countries of the UNO during the last six months; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the efforts being made in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : (a) to (d). Discussions on Security Council restructuring have been going on in an Open Ended Working Group of the UN General Assembly set up in 1993. The mandate of the Working Group has been extended till September 1997. No consensus has emerged on candidates, or on criteria for expansion of permanent members category. It is difficult at the present stage to evaluate or predict the results of such complex deliberations.

Poland has not endorsed India's bid for Permanent Membership of the UN Security Council.

Government have vigorously projected India's viewpoint in discussions in the open Ended Working Group of the UN General Assembly. India has stressed the necessity for enhancing representation of developing countries in permanent members category, while supporting expansion of permanent as well as non-permanent members category. We have also argued that expansion should be based on agreed criteria for expansion of permanent membership. We have stressed that both reform aspects and the expansion issue should be parts of a common package.

Implementation of Platform for Action

*155. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether to review the progress a year after the World Women's Conference, SAARC representatives met in New Delhi on September 9, 1996 to step up implementation of the 'Platform For Action';

(b) if so, the main points discussed in the meeting;

(c) whether decisions taken in the earlier conference have been partlally implemented;

(d) if so, the steps likely to be taken to implement all the decisions; and

(e) whether the details of the progress made so far will be available at the next meeting?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S.R. BOMMAI) : (a) Yes, Sir. United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) organised a South Asia Regional Meeting in Delhi called "Commemorating Beijing" on 9th September, 1996 to interalia, assess the achievements made so far in implementation of the Platform For Action.

(b) The Main points/recommendations discussed in the meeting are enclosed as Statement.

(c) and (d). Implementation of the decisions of the 4th World Conference on Women (Beijing, 1955) is a continuous process.

(e) The details of the progress made by the country on the implementation of the Platform for Action are